

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 058909
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058909

STADIS//////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ARP TWINAM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MASS, YE, US

SUBJECT: YAR CHIEF OF STAFF VISIT

REF: A) STATE 51209; B) SANA 1005

1. FOLLOWING IS DISCOURAGING STATUS REPORT ON WHERE WE STAND ON FUNDING AL-GHASHMI'S TRAVEL. IN DEALING WITH DEPT. OFFICES CONTROLLING IMET FUNDS, WE HAVE RUN INTO ADAMANT DEFENSE OF POLICY THAT IMET NOT BE USED TO FUND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR OFFICIAL VISITS. WE MUST APOLOGIZE FOR OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT THAT BECAUSE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED AL-GHASHMI VISIT IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY COULD HAVE RELIED ON IMET FUNDING OF TRAVEL, WE HAD SOME CHANCE TO RETAIN THIS FUNDING SOURCE EVEN THOUGH HE HAD SHIFTED TO OFFICIAL VISITORCATEGORY.

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2. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATED OUR FORCING THIS ISSUE PRIOR TO FINAL APPROVAL OF DOLS 80,000 IMET FOR YEMEN IN FY 77. WE PRESSED UNTIL POINT THAT I BECAME CONVINCED FURTHER INSISTENCE ON FUNDING AL-GHASHMI TRAVEL WOULD CRITICALLY JEOPARDIZE THE PROSPECTS OF OBTAINING THE DOLS 80,000. (AS OF THIS MOMENT'S READING YOU CAN ANTICIPATE EARLY RECEIPT OF

MESSAGE INDICATING DOLS 80,000 HAS BEEN APPROVED. THERE

MAY STILL BE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL YEAR-END FUNDS FOR FY 77 FOR IMET PROGRAM IN YEMEN BUT THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE RIGHT TIME TACTICALLY TO ASK FOR IT. SANA 1018 COMING ON TOP OF OUR EFFORT TO FORCE AL-GHASHMI'S TRAVEL PLACED THE DOLS 80,000 IN ADDITIONAL JEOPARDY.)

3. LAST REMAINING HOPE FOR USG FUNDING FOR THIS TRAVEL, THEREFORE, RESTS WITH DOD. WE HAVE MADE STRENUOUS EFFORT TO ASSURE THAT DOD FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEM YOU WERE FACING AND IS SENSITIVE AS HOST FOR PROPOSED VISIT TO YEMENI EXPECTATIONS IN SUCH MATTERS. FRANKLY, HOWEVER, I AM NOT CONFIDENT THAT DOD WILL FIND JUSTIFICATION FOR MAKING AN EXCEPTION TO WELL ESTABLISHED PRECEDENT OF NOT FUNDING TRAVEL FOR OFFICIAL VISITS.

4. YOU CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT THERE REMAINS BROAD POLICY SUPPORT FOR A LIMITED USG SECURITY ASSISTANCE INVOLVEMENT IN YAR. I AM FULLY SYMPATHETIC TO DIFFICULTIES YOU FACE IN TRYING TO EXTEND INVITATION TO AL-GHASHMI WITHOUT AGREEING TO FUNDING HIS TRAVEL. IF, AS APPEARS LIKELY, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO PRESENTING INVITATION ON THIS BASIS, I HOPE HE WILL ACCEPT. AT THIS STAGE HIS VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL IN BURNISHING THE IMAGE OF OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE YAR.

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